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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 15, 2019

Working Together, Supporting One Another

Grace to you and Peace! We are in the midst of Holy Week, a most sacred time in the life of Christians. It is a time to remember that Jesus was killed on Good Friday because of the collision of normal society and what Jesus proclaimed in living out the love of God for all people, no matter who they were. We are reminded that when we follow the way of Jesus, we are called to love boldly and not allow individuals or systems of power to treat others as less than children loved by God. But to do so, may lead to disdain or even retribution by others.



We in the Southeast Conference seek to witness to this love in various ways: welcoming all to accompany us on the journey of faith; working for social justice; reaching out to the disenfranchised; caring for all creation. But we can do this best when we work together and support one another. For me, this is the most important reason for our Conference Annual Meeting. It is not just about business, although some business will occur. It is not just about fellowship, but fellowship will occur. It is about inspiring each other, encouraging each other, learning from each other, supporting one another to be a witness to God's love in our communities and throughout the Conference. We have a unique voice that needs to be heard in the midst of a hurting world!

Have you registered yet for Annual Meeting? Remember that it is earlier this year (May 31-June 2) and it is being held at Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN. I have heard some people celebrate because it is geographically closer to them this year. I have also heard some people who

wished it was not so far from them. Because of our large geography, there is always travel! But how exciting it is to be able to spend a few days with others who share some common values and who are excited about strengthening our ministries, whether those ministries are through a local church or a specialized ministry such as chaplaincy or pastoral care.

We will welcome Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer who serves as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and hear about exciting things that are happening in the national setting of the UCC. There will be three opportunities to choose between 21 workshops! For those who are able to continue in fellowship until Sunday morning, there will be even more workshops as well as fellowship time and worship.

As we move into the Easter season, we are reminded that it is a season of hope, possibilities, and affirmation for the work that we do in the name of the Risen Christ!

Blessings!
Char

2019 Annual Meeting



That We May All Be One

Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 30 to Sunday, June 2

NEW LOCATION for 2019!

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Tennessee

Registration Now Open for Annual Meeting 53!

Please join us for the Southeast Conference's 53rd Annual Meeting at Pleasant Hill, TN May 31st- June 2nd. Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ is our special guest this year. Along with our special guest and business meeting we will be offering a number of workshops including "How to Create a Green Team, Supporting Members in Discernment, and How Does the UCC Work?" Plus many more!

Every church is invited to bring three delegates plus a delegate for each additional 100 members. All Authorized Ministers who hold standing in the Southeast Conference have voice and vote in the meeting. Churches are also welcome to bring as many guests as they would like so please come and bring a guest or two! We need your voice and you to make this a meaningful Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there!

REGISTER TODAY

Announcements in Annual Meeting Program

We will again have the opportunity for churches and UCC affiliated ministries to have announcements or ads in the Annual Meeting booklet for Annual Meeting 2019. Is there an event coming up your church would like to invite the conference to? A special celebration to lift up? Announcements cost \$25 for a quarter page, \$50 for a half page, and \$100 for a full page. Discounts available based on church size. Please email Heather at hfosburgh@secucc.org for more details. The deadline for submitting an advertisement is April 30, 2019.

Expo at Annual Meeting

Calling all people, businesses, or UCC affiliated entities that would like to have a table at the Expo at the Southeast Conference's Annual Meeting May 30th- June 1st. This year we are opening up our Expo to crafters and non-profits as well as UCC affiliated entities.

- Have you written a book?
- Does your church sell Fair Trade items?
- Do you make stoles?
- Design websites for churches and non-profits?
- Offer educational opportunities for clergy or lay leadership?

A table at the Expo might be for you! If you are interested in reserving a table, please contact email Heather at hfosburgh@secucc.org.

News from the Conference Office

From the Generosity Coordinator

First and foremost, a HUGE thank you to all of you who gave so generously to our first quarter. Hopefully, you have received your giving statements by now. This is a great beginning to a great year.

"You can't beat God giving, no matter how you try. The more you give, the more God gives to you, so Please keep on giving because it's really true...You can't beat God giving, no matter how you try".



I remember that song from my childhood as we were taught to take care of all of God's children. We were all in community, one with the other. It is good that we remember and reach out to those in need, just as God commanded us to do. Your OCWM dollars are at work in our churches, our communities, and the world. Yes, we are making a difference.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Meeting in Pleasant Hill, TN on May 31st thru June 1st, as we continue to discuss new and innovative ways that we can continue to make a difference in this conference. Your support is so needed and necessary.

Please continue to invite me to your churches and your church activities. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Together we stand, divided we fall..Please let us continue our journey...together.

Blessings,
Min. Carrole Moss



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2019. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of April 15

- Open Community UCC; Atlanta, Georgia
- Emmanuel UCC; Greenville, South Carolina
- Kristen Barner
- Kirk Foster
- Ellen Sims
- Bennie Liggins

Week of April 22

- First Congregational Church; Talladega, Alabama
- Edward Dahmer
- Amani Legagneur
- Sandra Mullins
- Gary Myers

Churches in Transition

Central Congregational, Atlanta, GA; United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville AL; First Congregational, Birmingham AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta GA; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA



Opportunities within the Southeast Conference

The Southeast Conference is strong when people are involved!

Would you like to be considered to be on the Conference Board of Directors or a member of a Standing Committee of the Board (Nominating Committee, Commission on Ministry, Personnel Committee, Stewardship & Finance Committee)?

Some of these positions are elected by the Conference and some are appointed by the Board. Either way, we would LOVE to have you join us to make us stronger!

Complete a Nomination Form today! ([Fillable PDF](#) or [Microsoft Word](#)).



"Coffee with Char" (*a virtual conversation*)

All authorized ministers are again invited to "have coffee" with Char through our virtual technology. Our focus question will be "what are the values that define us as a Conference?" We will use our Zoom meeting platform, which provides room for 50 people to gather, either through the computer or on the phone.

There are two coffee hours set up:

- Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time ([Reserve a spot](#))
- Thursday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time ([Reserve a spot](#))

After you have made a reservation, you will receive an email a few days prior to the reserved date providing you with the link for the connection.

Remember that this can be done via phone, without the need to use a computer. If you need assistance making a "reservation" please contact Heather at hfosburgh@secucc.org or 404-719-6572. Come and join with your colleagues in conversation!

Conference Staff Visiting Our Congregations

Have you "liked" the [Southeast Conference on Facebook](#)? If so, hopefully your feed has highlighted some of the many visits our conference staff has been making to congregations around the Southeast! Be sure to keep up with our travels via Facebook!



Conference Disaster Team Forming

As we mentioned in the last edition of this newsletter, we are looking for individuals located in various parts of the Conference to serve on a Disaster Team: checking in with churches following disasters. We are also looking for a Conference Disaster Coordinator who will coordinate the Team, learn about and stay connected to the UCC Disaster Ministries, and consider ways of working ecumenically within our geographical area. These are volunteer positions that can have a significant impact on our Conference's ability to respond to our churches when disaster hits. If you are interested or want more information, contact Char Burch, Transitional Conference Minister, through email: cburch@secucc.org or 404-615-2492.

Conference Pulpit Supply List

We often get requests from churches for ministers available to "fill the pulpit" for a Sunday. We would like to create a list to be placed on the Conference website to assist churches. If you are interested in preaching occasionally, please complete [this online form](#). Contact Heather at hfosburgh@secucc.org with any questions you may have. Thank you!

News from the Wider Church

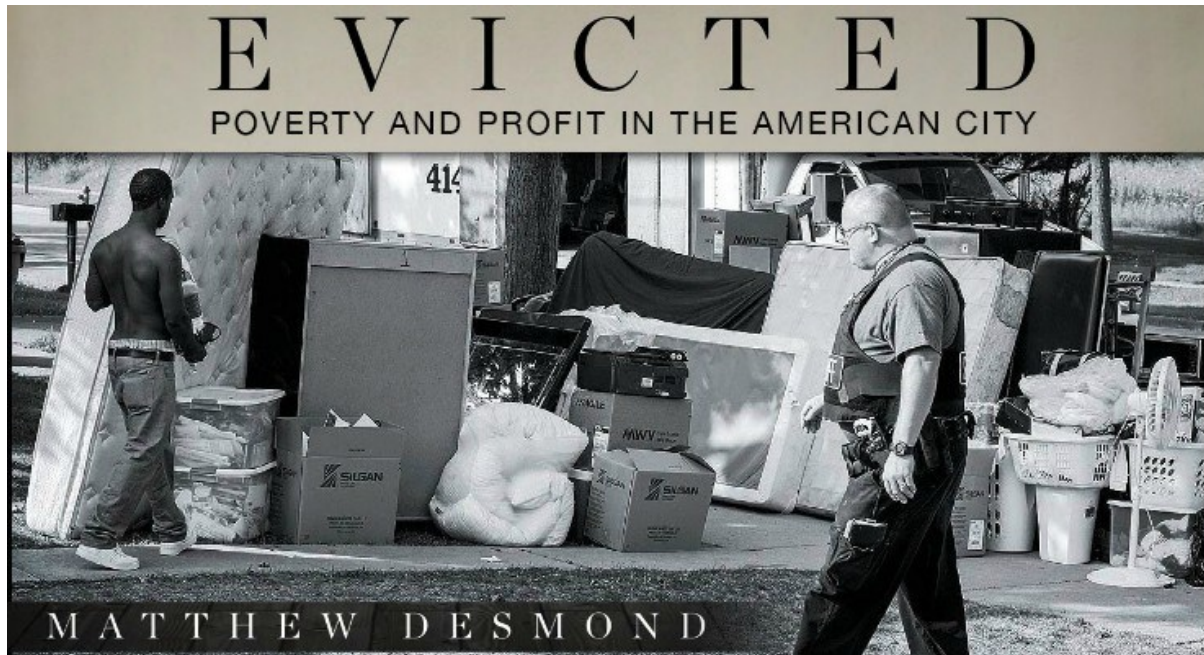
UCC Environmental Justice Ministry Survey

On an annual basis, the Environmental Justice Ministry of the United Church of Christ is conducting a survey of all the churches in the denomination in order to gather data on what churches are doing to care for God's creation. We want to be able to measure and assess our denomination's activity and growth in these areas. Please take a few minutes to provide us with information about your church. Links are provided (on the survey) to resources and further information if one desires to know more about current programs and forms of recognition. [Click here for survey](#).

New York Times Bestselling Author Featured in Webinar - April 30

The featured guest for this month's [Creation Justice Webinar](#) recently entered into the New York Times bestseller list. Author adrienne maree brown will focus on the strategies and practices needed to build a vision-

based, systemic-change-oriented movement. Brown will draw upon insights gained from years of working within organizations dedicated to environmental justice and black liberation. [Sign-up now for the webinar on April 30th.](#)



Racial Justice Ministries Quarterly Book Discussion – May 16

The UCC Racial Justice Ministry will host a Book Discussion featuring *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in The American City* written by Matthew Desmond on Thursday, May 16, 2019, 12 noon – 1 pm EST via live webinar discussion.

Desmond will be the keynote speaker during General Synod in Milwaukee, WI, June 22, 2019. His book will transform our understanding of eviction as a root cause of poverty. The Book Discussion provides participants an opportunity to read deeply and gain insights into some of the root causes of generational poverty due to housing policies that are not necessarily just for all American citizens.

Register on the [Racial Justice Book Discussion webpage](#). *Evicted* can be purchased at the [UCC Bookstore](#). Webinar credentials will be one week prior to the discussion. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Velda Love, lovev@ucc.org or Alegra Martin, martina@ucc.org.

Open Your Doors, But Not Your Risk

Churches frequently extend the use of their premises to third parties for one-time only events such as weddings, and for recurring events such as AA Meetings. The use of church premises for these activities exposes the church to liability in the event someone is injured on church premises, or inadvertently causes damage to the church. [Read more on our website.](#)

Insurance Board Art Contest Time

Lightning is more common than you think. By educating our congregations and children, we can all do our part to keep our members and buildings safe. The theme for 2019 for the Insurance Board is: "Lightning Awareness Saves Lives and Our Churches." This is an opportunity to put summer art activities directly to work in the care of your churches/camps. Discuss with children when and why lightning occurs as well as the risks associated with lightning. Ask them to create images/messages depicting lightning, its power, and the damage it creates.

Three CASH prizes of \$1,000 each to the sponsoring Church/Camp in each group: 7 and Under; 8 to 12; 13 to 17 Winners will be featured on Insurance Board' Facebook page and in the newsletter. First 12 Churches/Camps to [email Danielle Grasso](#) confirming participation will receive a \$50 art supply reimbursement.

News from Our Local Congregations

Upper Room UCC Fellowship Spring Potluck Supper

by Tony England

A supper gathering of Nashville & Mid-TN UCC churches will occur on Saturday, May 18th @ 5:30 PM at Howard Congregational Church (2802 Buchanan Street, Nashville). Howard UCC Choir will be in sacred concert! Special Guest Speaker from Birmingham: Rev. J.R. Finney, Moderator of the Southeast UCC Conference! Evening's theme: "Taking Time Just to Be in God's Loving Care." Bring family, friends, and favorite casserole for great UCC fellowship & inspiration!

Southeast Conference Churches Planning Mission Trip to Puerto Rico; Donations of Support Welcome!

by Rev. Nancy Elsenheimer

A delegation of UCC members and friends from Southeast Conference: Garden of Grace UCC and Safe Harbor UCC, along with churches from Arizona, California, and Massachusetts, will be working through the UCC Disaster Ministries to rebuild homes, repair roofs and rebuild lives with love. Traveling June 15-22, 2019 the group of 12 will be led by Revs. Nancy and Ted Elsenheimer and will stay in Humacau, PR in a house adjacent to the UCC affiliated Ryder Hospital. [Read more and learn how](#) you can support this vital ministry.



News from Forgiving Heart Church in Columbus, GA

On March 24, 2019, Forgiving Heart had the honor of Min. Carrole Moss visit with us. She brought an awesome message of love in her sermon. After the worship service, she gave a wonderful presentation about UCC. It included a short history and a lot of information on how the ministries of UCC with emphases on the Southeast Conference. We are looking forward to having her back! [Read more about all the ministries at Forgiving Heart.](#)

We love sharing news from our local congregations! Please send us pictures and explanations of special events at your church that we can share on our website,

social media, and in this email newsletter. We think it's a great way to share ideas for events, as well as celebrating what other UCC churches are doing!
Email us at communications@secucc.org.

Training and Learning Opportunities



Boundary Training 101 Scheduled for May 30, 2019

by Carrole Moss

Date: May 30, 2019

Place: Pleasant Hill Community UCC

Event: Healthy Boundary Training 101

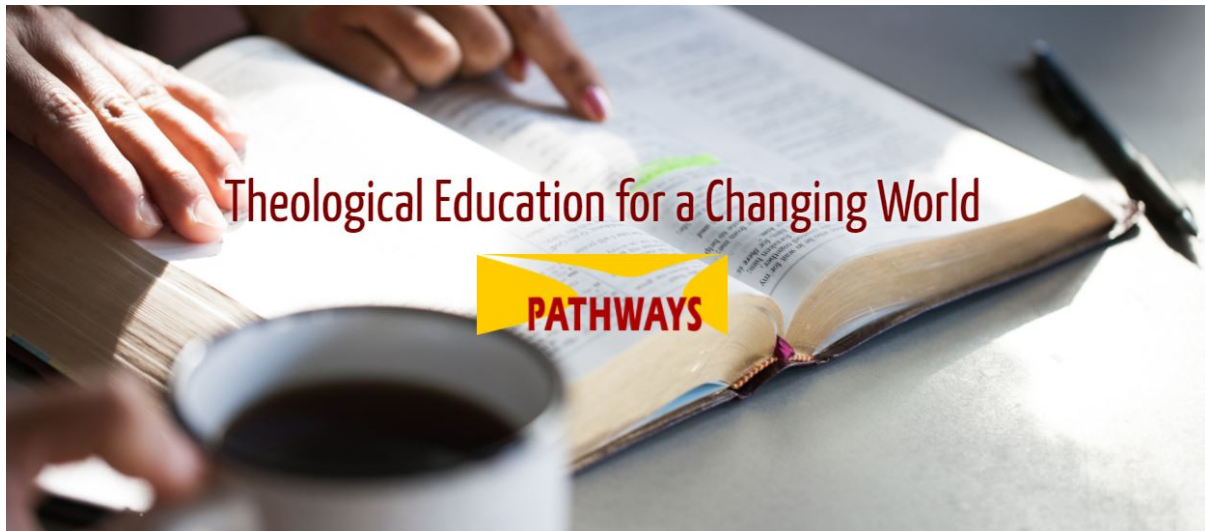
Time: 12:00 noon until 8:00pm

Did you know that it is now a **REQUIREMENT that all Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned clergy** serving in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ complete this training by December 2019? As of January 1, 2018 it has been mandated that all clergy attend this training and follow up every four years for a refresher course. This course will help you to learn or, refresh you on what your boundaries are, appropriate and inappropriate behavior, not just in the pulpit, but in your everyday life. It helps you with relationships, self care, social media and other issues.

There are stories of misconduct by clergy in the news, on social media, in our conversations, and on our minds, every day. Please **DO NOT** allow your name and your story to become a part of the media circus. Times have changed, people have changed...the conduct that was tolerated 10-20 years ago is no longer acceptable. Please help us to help you by making plans to

attend this training. Remember: **Healthy Boundary Training is MANDATORY!!!**

The registration will be open in a few weeks on our website: secucc.org. We urge you to make plans to be there. It is our promise that you will be informed and enlightened. When we know better, we do better!!! Come, let us grow together. I look forward to seeing you there.



PATHWAYS is Now a 501(c)(3) Organization!

The PATHWAYS Theological Education Board is excited to announce that we have recently been awarded 501(c)(3) status! We are excited that we are now a non-profit organization dedicated to Progressive Christianity! Over the next two months, we will be rolling out some new courses, a new website, and new certificate programs starting in August 2019.

Courses Starting in May 2019

- L1.5 Spiritual Care of Self and Others (May 1-Jun 11)
- L2.4 New Testament Hermeneutics (May 1 – June 11)
- L2.6/L2.7 UCC History & Polity (May 1 – July 23)
- ****New Course**** ESC 11: The Opioid Crisis – A Christian Perspective (May 8 – June 4)

Visit us at www.pathwaystheological.org or email us at info@pathwaystheological.org. *(Editors note: PATHWAYS is a ministry originally formed as part of the Southeast Conference.)*

Scholarship for Individuals Studying to Become UCC

Ministers

The Milnes Fund of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, was established in 1996 through a bequest from Jack and Marjory Milnes to provide scholarships for individuals studying to become ministers in the United Church of Christ. The award amount may be up to \$3,000. The application should be submitted by June 9, 2019 for the spring semester. [Learn more on our website.](#)

Conference Calendar

Staff Meeting

April 23 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am EDT
Online Virtual Meeting

Coffee with Char (Virtual Event)

April 30 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT
Online Virtual Meeting

Coffee with Char (Virtual Event)

May 2 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am EDT
Online Virtual Meeting

Upper Room UCC Fellowship

May 18 @ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm CDT
Howard Congregational Church, Nashville

Boundary Training

May 30 @ 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm CDT
Pleasant Hill Community Church

MID Retreat

May 30 @ 10:00 am - May 31 @ 12:00 pm CDT
Pleasant Hill Community Church

SEC UCC Annual Meeting

May 31 @ 12:00 pm - June 1 @ 4:00 pm EDT
Pleasant Hill Community Church

UCC General Synod

June 21 - June 25
Milwaukee, WI

Contact Us

Conference Minister: **Rev. Char Burch**; cburch@secucc.org

Assoc. Conference Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**; hbardole@secucc.org

Generosity Coordinator: **Min. Carrole Moss**; cmoss@secucc.org

Director of Communications: **Don Harris**; dharris@secucc.org

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